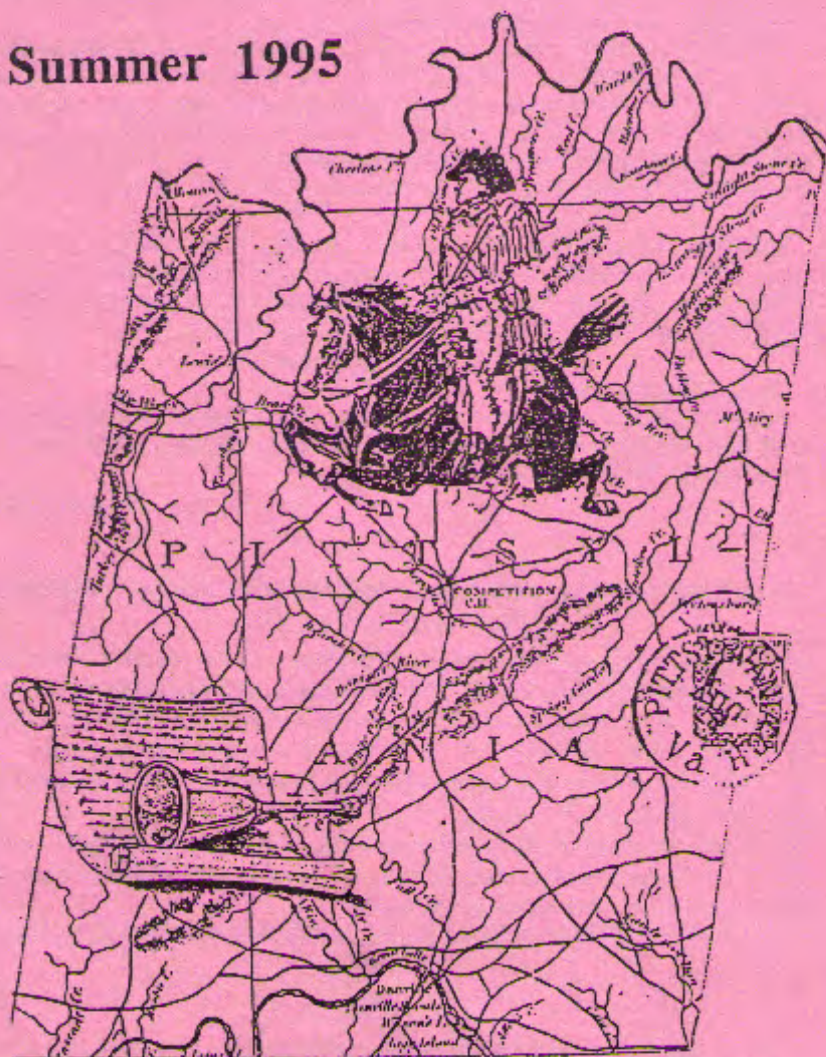


The Pittsylvania Packet

Summer 1995



No. 17

Pittsylvania Historical Society
Chatham, Virginia

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

To the membership:

You have honored me by placing me at the helm of the Society for the next two years. I promise to take the responsibility seriously and to approach the task with diligence since the organization deserves no less.

I have inherited the presidency of a robust organization that continues to grow - not just in numbers, but in assets and in service to society as well. I need not tell you that the administration of Preston Moses in the Pittsylvania Historical Society is a hard act to follow. His two terms as president were crowned with some remarkable achievements. Without enumerating all of them, suffice it to say that he leaves the office with membership and financial assets at an all time high.

Moreover, I know that all of you are proud of *The Packet* which he developed into one of the finest historical society publications in the U.S. All of us harbor the hope that Preston will someday again resume the title of Editor: *The Pittsylvania Packet*. Meanwhile, from all of us, a hearty:

MACTE VIRTUTE!!! Preston.

To the Officers and Directors:

I appreciate your willingness to remain at your posts for another term. It means much to me to have your advice and counsel at my disposal, and you can be certain that I will be calling on you.

Herman Melton

THE MAY MEETING

Lucille Payne reviewed her book: *Pittsylvania County Virginia Inventories & Accounts Current 1770-1797* (Lynchburg, H.E. Howard Inc. 1995) 196 pgs. Lucille has made a significant contribution to county history with this fascinating volume. Good job, Lucille. We are enjoying our copy.

Those interested write Lucille with a check for \$26.95 postpaid at RFD 2, Box 419, Axton, VA 24054.

It was also annual election night at the May meeting. Officers and directors were reelected, and Herman Melton succeeded Preston Moses who had served two terms as President.

HEAR YE, HEAR YE

All members are urged to spread the word about the Autumn Potpourri and to assume a personal responsibility by being present at Callands on October 7. (preferably in Colonial attire) If you live out of the county, why not take a vacation and come home for a weekend?

The Autumn Potpourri

Beginning as a small crafts show over a decade ago with a handful of crafters and about two hundred visitors, Autumn Potpourri, the Pittsylvania Historical Society's annual celebration of fall, now includes dozens of crafters and artisans with attendance in the thousands.

Staged at the two historic buildings at Callands, Pittsylvania County's first seat of government in 1767, this colorful event offers a sampling of 18th century life, including spinners, basket weavers, rug hookers, a village blacksmith and much more.

The society is grateful for the invaluable assistance of the Callands Volunteer Fire Department and Auxiliary, who man the parking and manage to whet the appetites of folks who are drawn to this event, which is now famous for its scrumptious stew and its flavor-filled pics.

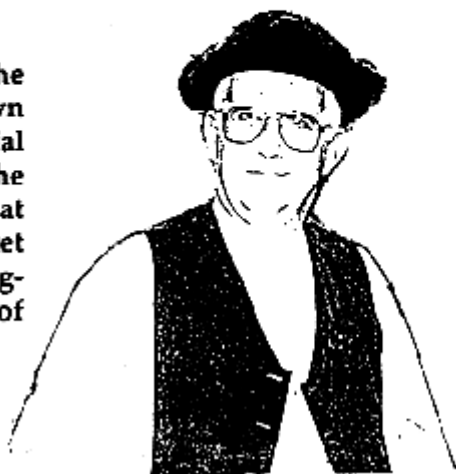
Highlights of past festivals have included portrayal of colorful characters from Pittsylvania County's history, resplendent as old Sam Calland himself in colonial garb, and skits depicting events from the past, which are presented smack-dab in the middle of the crowds, on the steps of the old Courthouse. From hunters to hawkers -- from trappers to traders, a bit of history is always offered to those lucky enough to get close enough to partake in this offering. The crowd has been known to scatter at the sound of the muskets in the background.

Looking like a scene from past court days, crafters and artisans are located on every inch of these historic grounds, peddling their wares. Spaces for exhibits are again sold out, and there is the usual waiting list.

The 1994 event was held under sunny skies with the temperature in the low 80s. An estimated 12,000 people showed up. James (Mack) Doss was up at 3:30 a.m. setting up tables for exhibitors and craftsmen as he does each year.

His name is synonymous with the Autumn Potpourri since he has been the guiding light since its inception. Mack begins work on the next year's festival the day following each year. His comment to reporters regarding the success of last year's event was "It's overwhelming." That is largely because of the talent, skills and dedication of the essential and indefatigable Mack Doss.

Mack Doss, Director of the Autumn Potpourri, shown here resplendent in Colonial attire and hard at work in the arts and crafts festival at Callands in 1994. The Packet hereby takes pride in recognizing him for his years of service.





Callands 1767 Clerk's Office
Site of Autumn Potpourri



Costumed vendors at cider
press at Callands Autumn
Potpourri.

PREVIEW OF THE AUGUST 21 MEETING

A huge crowd is expected at the August meeting for the following reasons: The time is 7 p.m. and the place is at the Town Park in back of the historic 1813 Clerk's Office behind Town Hall.

The speaker will be one of the county's favoritesons, Hugh McCormick. This historian and one time soldier of fortune recently retired from his Front Royal law practice after a fascinating life. He is a speaker in much demand, and we are honored with his presence. McCormick is the author of the widely acclaimed book: CONFEDERATE SON in which he recounts much about his boyhood in our county. He had three ancestors in Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg - a rarity. The public is invited, and all who wish to purchase his book may do so.

John Randolph of Roanoke A Politician Extraordinaire With Pittsylvania Connections

By Kenyon McCann

One of the most interesting characters in 18th century America was a neighbor of folks living in Pittsylvania County. John Randolph of nearby Charlotte County was important on the political scene of the day. His bon mots are still widely quoted in political circles.

Although he apparently never lived in Pittsylvania County, his mother was Frances Bland Randolph who later married Henry St. George Tucker and lived seven miles north of Chatham.

Always known as John Randolph of Roanoke (the family plantation) to distinguish himself from a disliked cousin who held the same name, he was plagued by malaria and hyperchondria.

During an early visit to brother Dickie in Williamsburg, he contracted scarlet fever which left him nearly beardless and with a shrill, high-pitched voice. He was probably made impotent as well from the disease.

Randolph briefly attended William and Mary in 1792-93. There he quarreled with Robert B. Taylor and, in a resulting duel, shot Taylor through the leg. They later became friends. Randolph would fight a second duel, with Henry Clay, whom he'd publicly called a blackleg (crooked gambler) after Clay threw his support to John Quincy Adams in the disputed election of 1824. Clay challenged Randolph to a duel.

Clay and Randolph met on the Virginia bank of the Potomac River attended by two seconds and a surgeon. Thomas Hart Benton, Senator from Missouri, was there as a mutual friend. The first of Randolph's bullets struck a tree behind Clay with Clay's volley hitting the dirt at Randolph's feet. Although Benton tried to stop the encounter, both men insisted upon a second shot. This time, Clay's shot pierced the dressing gown Randolph wore, while Randolph deliberately fired into the air, announcing, "I do not fire at you, Mr. Clay. You owe me a new coat." Clay retorted, "I am glad the debt is no greater." The two men then shook hands; the quarrel was over.

Benton declared that "this was about the last high-toned duel" he ever witnessed. Later Benton learned that the night before the duel Randolph had told a friend, "I have determined to receive without returning Clay's fire; nothing shall induce me to harm a hair of his head. I will not make his wife a widow or his children orphans. Their tears would be shed over his grave, but when the sod of Virginia rests on my bones, there is not in this wide world one individual to pay his tribute upon me."



Silhouette of the brilliant and erratic John Randolph of Roanoke shows him on his stud farm.

This duel is of particular interest to Pittsylvanians since Clay had many family members living in the county including the prominent Congressman Matthew Clay of Chestnut Level.

"I am an aristocrat," Randolph once announced. "I love justice and hate equality." He was essentially a states' righter, stating, "When I think of my country, I mean the Commonwealth of Virginia." He began his political life as a Jeffersonian Republican but later broke with T.J. as well as with his successors: Madison, Monroe and John Quincy Adams. Once, on meeting an Adamsite on the street, the latter stopped and snidely announced, "I never step out of the way for puppies," Randolph never blinked an eye as he stepped aside, saying, "I always do. Pass on."

During Jefferson's presidency, Randolph served as Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. He was successful, moderate and tactful during the Louisiana Purchase negotiations, subverting his beliefs on states' rights to national well-being. However, when Jefferson attempted to secure Florida from Spain by paying France (Tallyrand) two million dollars to help in negotiations, Randolph and the President broke ranks. What was attempted by Jefferson peacefully would later be the reason for the Spanish-American War. Although Randolph lost his seat in Congress in 1813, he would run again in 1815 and be reelected during Monroe's Era of Good Feeling.

Contemporaries were bewildered by Randolph's appearance during 1820-1821. Physically, he resembled the Rider of the Pale Horse and it has been suggested that perhaps he suffered from tuberculosis. Still, his witicisms continued. Referring to primogeniture, he opined, "An Englishman has but one son. All the rest are bastards." And speaking on states' rights, he said that "asking a state to surrender part of its sovereignty is like asking a lady to surrender part of her chastity."

By 1829, Randolph wore the aspect of a corpse, suffering pain almost constantly; nevertheless, when the Virginia Constitutional Convention convened, he was a delegate, denouncing the whole idea of a new Constitution for the Old Dominion.

John Randolph was buried at Roanoke Plantation, in the woods, facing West. Wags said it was to keep an eye on Clay. Later, his body would be disinterred and taken to Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond in 1879. It was then found that the roots of a Roanoke tree had penetrated the coffin, twined through his long black hair and filled his skull.

John Randolph of Roanoke helped turn the South from nourisher of the Republic to opponent of same. He dared the wrath of Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, John Marshall, John C. Calhoun, John Quincy Adams, Henry Clay, Daniel Webster and Andrew Jackson alike. (Old Hickory's beloved wife, Rachel, was Pittsylvania County native: Rachel Donelson).

The following is from an extract of John Randolph's will, admitted to probate in 1833:

"I give to my slaves their freedom, to which my conscience tells me they are justly entitled. It has a long time been a matter of deepest regret to me that the circumstances under which I inherited them and the obstacles thrown in the way by the laws of the land have prevented my emancipating them in my lifetime, which it is my full intention to do in case I can accomplish it."

He had earlier freed and established brother Dickie's slaves as executor of his estate in 1796.

John Randolph of Roanoke spent over thirty years in public life as a member of the House of Representatives (Jefferson's floor leader), Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, Ambassador to Russia and member of the Constitutional Convention of Virginia.

(Kenyon McCann is the pen name of historical society member Helen Melton.)

Family Historians, Take Note!

Did you know that some readers of *The Packet* are able to find voluminous genealogical records pertaining to theirs and related families in the archives at the Pittsylvania County Public Library in Chatham? At the present, there are fairly complete records of some fifteen county families plus considerable data concerning many more of their related families. These are in addition to those accessible in the open stacks.

Two families, the Watsons and Robertsons, are especially well documented. Other families, whose local branches are well covered and worth researching, include the families of Lewis, Henson, Smith, Collins, Dalton, Tatum, Whitehead, Tredway, Hunt, Harrison, Bazer and Schoolfield. Related families, too numerous to mention, are also among these records. Fortunately, they are stored in acid free file boxes, each of which contain records of as many as six or more families. It appears that they are the products of members of patriotic organizations (such as the UDC and the DAR), dedicated genealogists (such as Henson, Overby, now deceased) and various family historians.

We hasten to add that access to these files is by permission only from the Library staff, but they are available with normal restrictions. In other words, they are not in the open stacks nor do they circulate. This is as it should be since they are valuable.

The Society has secured the permission of Mrs. Bruning, the County Librarian, to increase the size of the genealogical archives by granting us additional space. We can visualize the importance of having the records of scores of early Pittsylvania County families and their descendants on file for the use of people coming from great distances to trace ancestry. It would be especially convenient for genealogists, historians and for those "climbing the family tree." *The Packet* will have more on the plan in future issues. As it develops, readers will be told how they can help in making it a significant permanent collection.

TIPS FOR THE RESEARCHER

1. Always send a self-addressed stamped envelope.
2. Ask for only one family, not all the surnames in your line.
3. Give some specific information to help the person know who you are looking for.
4. When someone answers your request, say "thank you."
5. Always be courteous in a letter as well as in person.
6. Offer to pay for any and all expenses incurred.
7. If you write to a Historical Society, offer to add your family history to their files.
8. ALWAYS, ALWAYS give the person time to answer before firing off another letter. There may be a reason why they do not send a response in the next mail. Be patient.

--From the *Texarkana USA Quarterly*, Texarkana, TX

Ladies of the DAR

By Frances Hurt

When the good citizens of the United States weep and wail and gnash their teeth over the decline of standards, they would do well to remember the Daughters of the American Revolution. No matter the sewage that washes over the court system and the news, the DAR stands against the tide.

Pittsylvania County has two chapters of this stalwart organization which have never wavered in their dedication to the goals set by the national founders in 1890 -- to promote education, historic preservation and patriotic endeavor.

The William Pitt Chapter in Chatham was organized in 1911, and the Thomas Carter Chapter was organized in the county in 1936. Through wars, depressions and epidemics they have held to their goals. The names of the first chapter members are familiar because many of their descendants live here today.

Membership in the DAR is not exactly hit, lick or miss. It is more like proving claim to a gene. The requirements for proof of an ancestor who fought or contributed otherwise, in the American Revolution, are cast in carborundum. Documentations must be supplied to authenticate every begat. Membership often requires years of research if anything is missing.

The minutes from the first William Pitt meetings reflect the canny mix of socializing and goal-tending which enlivens all organizations. The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Thomas R. Watkins, regent, who "entertained in her usual charming and hospitable manner, closing with an elegant luncheon of several courses." There was an "animated discussion of future plans" which included programs on history given by members. They even voted the first of a steady stream of little gifts to worthy causes. This time, it was a gift of \$6 "for poor mountain people." They were ever mindful of the needs of Indians, but their major concern was for veterans.

Right off the bat, these spunky ladies voted to present a play, "The Daughters of 1776." They did add a proviso -- "if the characters can be obtained." It took a while, but two years later the play was produced, directed by a Mrs. Lanier who was "given a rising vote of thanks for her untiring and successful efforts." This must have been presented in the old opera house above the present offices of Yeatts Overby Yeatts & Ramsey.

In 1936 the revolutionary descendants who lived in the county decided that they, too, would like to form a chapter of the DAR. They met at the home of Mrs. R.W. Carter near Danville. Of the 16 present, 10 were descendants of the same Revolutionary hero, Thomas Carter of Greenrock, the family seat. Thus, naming the chapter was no problem. It became the Thomas Carter chapter.

Of interest is the fact that the English ancestor of the founding Stone sisters was also named Thomas Carter -- Sir Thomas Carter. Any connection is not known.

These three sisters -- Mrs. Kirk Perrow (Bettie) of Hurt, Mrs. Samuel Gregory (Mary) of Java, and Mrs. Paul Crider (Katie) played vital roles in the chapter until their deaths. Mrs. Perrow was the organizing and subsequent regent and also served in other offices. Katie Crider also served as regent, but her early job was that of treasurer until Mrs. Perrow's daughter-in-law Epps (Mrs. Perrow, Jr.) gravitated into the job where she remains today. One sister, Mary Stone Gregory, stuck to historian and genealogist. To complete the Stone family saga in the DAR, Mary's granddaughter Sallie Stone Gregory of Java is presently the regent.

Pittsylvanians have cause to thank the chapter every time they enter the courthouse. The lovely, though somewhat bemused, portrait of Rachael Donelson Jackson is their gift. Born at Markham, Rachael moved with her family to Tennessee where she met and married a young lawyer, Andrew Jackson. He later became President.

This DAR chapter like the William Pitt chapter is unceasing in its emphasis on citizenship, working with county schools to promote participation in the yearly essay contest. Gifts and medals are awarded the winners. Thomas Carter also gives away flags to schools and institutions after they have hung over the capitol.

Things livened up for the William Pitt with World War I when patriotism came off the back burner to touch everybody's life. Dorothy Whitehead Motley remembers that, as a little girl, she helped the ladies knit socks for the soldiers. The ladies knitted sold gray, but Dorothy knitted colored toes to relive boredom and surprise the soldiers.

Preston Moses remembers carrying boxes to the post office which the ladies had packed for the soldiers.

Life in the little town suddenly became part of the big picture. Troop trains came through regularly, stopping at the train station. The DAR ladies would be right there, plus others, with picnic baskets of food. Eventually, however, they had to give up on the picnic baskets, overwhelmed by numbers. All the mothers got mightily upset, Gertrude Wilson Jones remembers because the girls would steal off to the train station when the troop trains came through.

The threat of the Germans was pervasive -- so pervasive that a Home Guard was organized to safeguard the town. Later in 1921, a note in the William Pitt minutes calls attention to the fact that Capt. Purdone (?) "desires the interest of the ladies...and their presence sometimes...at their drill each Thursday night." A committee was appointed to try to oblige. Elizabeth Wilson Whitehead, regent of William Pitt, laughs over the story that the commander only gave orders after reading them in his hat.

In 1914 William Pitt undertook one of the most frustrating projects an organization could tackle -- to find the graves of Revolutionary War soldiers. Each member was assigned a soldier by name. Four graves were found, but the chapter then voted to abandon the project as too difficult. It is difficult today with the use of automobiles; imagine a search by buggy.

Both the chapters are zealous in fund raising to support DAR causes. Support for American Indian schools seems an unexpected feature, but it indicates a tender conscience on the part of those first DAR organizers.

Although the Thomas Carter Chapter was girded by Stones (referred to as "Little Pebbles" at Hollins College where they attended), many other old county families played a part. None, however, had as avid a genealogist as Bettie Perrow. She researched 17 family lines and "wore her ribbon full of bars," a family member said. When a friend was campaigning for national office, Mrs. Perrow was wondering how much money to contribute to her campaign.

"She will get to sit on the podium in Washington, and her ribbon will be two inches wider," she mused.

When it comes to standing steadfast for that all-American virtue of patriotic endeavor, buttressed by education and preservation, all of the ladies should have ribbons two inches wider.

Pittsylvania Remembrances

This is *The Packet's* inaugural issue of its newest section called (for want of a better name) PITTSYLVANIA REMEMBRANCES. Initially, the Editor has requested a few county natives to submit brief accounts of historical events, humorous episodes, legends, personal experiences, little known facts, etc. pertaining to Pittsylvania County. Due to space limitations, the texts must be limited to a maximum of two pages or 500 words.

We are hoping that this appeal yields a cornucopia,

An invitation is hereby extended to any county native and especially to members of the Society to write down an account of your favorite experience, interesting event, little known fact, humorous story etc. as noted above and send to The Packet Editor at P.O. Box 1148, Chatham, VA 24531.

County native Robert Harris of Beverly Heights voluntarily submitted Going To The Mill from his boyhood memories as the inaugural article. His contribution gave us the idea for the new column. Thanks Bobby, -- The Editor.

Going To The Mill

By Robert Harris

Not everyone has had the opportunity to visit the old water-driven flour and grist mill. I'm thankful I had that chance and the opportunity to tell about it in my own way.

The best trips to the mill were the ones in the wagons. Nothing today can give the same sensation as a ride in a wagon. The younger you were - say five or six - the more you wanted to drive the team. Sometimes you were given this privilege with an adult also holding the reins. When there were three boys on board, all wanting to drive, Dad drove in order to settle the dispute.

I remember one such day when Dad told me to get ready to go to the mill. On this occasion, my cousins were visiting us on the farm that summer and he said, "Call your cousins." We got excited right away and were ready very soon. We began fussing about who was gonna be driving. It didn't take Dad long to put a stop to that silliness.

After loading up with corn and wheat, we were on our way. Our first half-mile was uneventful, then through inexperience, exploration, or both, my youngest cousin fell off the wagon in such a way that the back wheel rolled over his chest. It was a miracle of God that he was not injured - just bruised. I think though, that when Dad finished telling him, in simple words, that this wouldn't happen again, his pride was bruised also.

I remember the sensation of coming round the bend at the mill and setting my eyes on that place. It sets the wheels of memory in motion.

I don't think my Daddy looked upon this as we boys did. To him, it was just another chore, but to we young fellows, it was something else. I believe the poet would have a fine time here at the old mill, what with the sights, sounds and smells. It was nostalgia in the making.

The mill stream was intiving on the hot days. The main road crossed it just below the entrance. The crossing was a ford only and approximately thirty yards upstream as the water driven sawmill which was a part of the mill. Eventually, it was operated by a Diesel engine.

This was the Thirties and Forties, and a few trucks showed up at times. All used the wooden loading platform along the front of the building.

We young ones had a certain amount of freedom to explore, but you can be assured that the miller and the parent kept a watchful eye. If one strayed into a danger area, proper measures were taken to remove him.

The one thing that stands out in my memory the most was the wide floor boards which glistened from the constant sliding of bags of grain over them. To say that they were slippery is an understatement.

I remember seeing the inside of the mill in the morning while it was idle before it started for the day. This was a fine time. I remember when the miller would go to the back of the big room and pull the big lever which controlled the mill. The water flowed through a large pipe and out over the cups on the water wheel, causing it to turn. This engaged all the wheels, belts, pulleys, grinders, shredders, etc. and started the mill functioning. It was fascinating to watch the wheat poured into the hopper and to see it transformed into flour and "shipstuff." Corn, both yellow and white, were ground into meal for table use and for dogs, livestock and chickens also. I often wonder how the world gets along without the 'ole flour mill.'

There were several steps up to the level of the 'holding pond' dam which was located about fifty yards upstream of the mill on Pudding Creek. It was known as Jones Mill then, but old timers knew it as Pigg Mill.

We boys were warned of the pond's "suck hole" which was caused by water flowing through the large pipe flume. This was scary to a small lad. I remember the huge water wheel which seemed to be a ten feet wide and a hundred feet high. In reality, it was more like four feet wide and twenty feet high.

I remember Mr. Jones, the miller, who would be covered from head to foot with a white powdery substance - the result of the sifting of the product of the grains being ground.

It was always too soon for us when Daddy called us to go. We followed him into the mill office which was always cool and musty - even in hot weather. There was a large black safe with yellow letters on it - probably the name of the manufacturer. As I remember, there also was a hand made table and chair in the room.

Thus another wonderful time drew to a close. There were many other sights and sounds, and each of us who went there would have a different way of telling his story. This is my way. A wonderful time at the mill!



Miss Maud's Marriage

By Patricia B. Mitchell

The Victorian wedding was fraught with symbolism. Every detail, from the date to the choice of flowers, had significance. The following account of the wedding of Maud Carter (who married Nathaniel Clement and is remembered as a local historian) was written by J.W. Whitehead of Chatham in a letter to his daughter Parke. Parke was in school at State Normal (now Longwood College) in Farmville, Virginia. J.W. Whitehead wrote the letter on the day of the wedding, a Tuesday in November, 1897.

Tuesday afternoon

My dear Daughter,

I was delighted with the beautiful letter I received from you yesterday. It made me feel proud of you, not only as a letter writer, but also to know that you were having a grand time. Nothing of importance has transpired since I last wrote except Miss Maud & Nat's marriage which took place at high noon today at Episcopal Church. The bridesmaids, about six in number, with the maid of honor and ribbon holder, all came in carriages to the church door, followed by the bride & and her father, all dismounted & the maids went in first & took their places on each side of the altar, then followed Maud & gentleman Jim. Old Mrs. Collier was in the vestibule straightening out their trains as they passed in. When the bride & her father arrived at the altar, I spied a tall lean lank fellow emerge from a side door. This I recognized to be Nathaniel. The organ which had been vigorously handled by Mrs. Martin during the time stopped suddenly & the ceremony commenced, Rev. Mr. Dabney as pastor for a time & Rev. Mr. Pruden put on the finishing touch. As soon as the blessing was received the old organ burst forth again, I left immediately for the store & don't know what happened afterwards. Upon the whole it was a pretty marriage, the bride was attired in white organdy & fine appliques, with a profusion of tulle & one lovely orange blossom in her beautiful hair. Nat looked as if he had won a great victory & everybody was envying him his good fortune. After my return to the store it was not very long before the bridal party passed for the depot & I learned the bride & groom are going to Charlottesville where the groom will take a special Summer Course in law. So much for the marriage....

Good bye
au voir

Affectionately
Father

The Victorians were superstitious about the day of the wedding. A little verse went, "Monday for wealth; Tuesday for health; Wednesday, the best day of all." Thursday was all right, but Friday was considered an evil day to start anything important. Saturday was the most unlucky of all; and Sunday, being the Sabbath, was out of the question.

In the East, a wedding sometime between ten o'clock and noon was considered the most fashionable because this was the English custom.

Miss Maud's dress was white (although some Victorian brides wore other colors). According to fashion, the veil could be lace, but silk tulle was preferred. The orange blossom, a symbol of purity, was often worn. In fact, in 1839, when Queen Victoria married Albert, a coronet of orange blossoms held her veil in place above her eighteen-foot satin train.

Primary reference: *Satenig St. Marie and Carolyn Flaherty, Romantic Victorian Weddings*, Dutton Studio Books, New York, 1991.

Special thanks to Mrs. A. Phillipson for locating this letter and allowing it to be reprinted; and to Mary Rutledge Clement Ward, granddaughter of "Miss Maud," for her input.

Unusual Names Are Often Found In Public Records

By Sarah E. Mitchell

In the last issue of *The Pittsylvania Packet*, I wrote about some of the most common names and their derivatives. In this issue, I will write about some of the most unusual names found in the Pittsylvania County marriage records for the years 1767-1861. Some of these names have been carried down and are still in use today -- names like Pleasant Shields, who was borne both by a man who married in the 1810's and by a man who recently retired from the Virginia police force. Unusual spellings also abound, such as Shadrach spelled Shadrach, Dorcas spelled Darkes, and Joyce spelled Joice.

Men's Names:

Speed A. Adams (m. 1843); Scarlett M. Adkerson (m. 1843; scarlett was used as a boy's name in the early 1800's); Achilles Allen (m. 1802); Thomas Allsup (m. 1796); Sterling Asher (m. 1802); Chamness Austin (m. 1796; Champness was a fairly popular name); Rice Beadles (m. 1786); Seaton Beadles (m. 1789); Coalman Bennet (m. 1834); Crafton Bennett (m. 1839); Macager Bennett (m. 1833); Micajah Wheeler Bennett (m. 1799); Henderson Bumpass (m. 1829); Jesse Chocklett (m. 1848); Malberry Copperage (m. 1850); Drury Cross (m. 1787); Sibert Crutcher (m. 1795); Royall King (m. 1799); Sharp Lamkin (m. 1797); Bird Lawless (m. 1789); Friar McNeely (m. 1840); Atha M. Mease (m. 1840); Edward Popejoy Jr. (m. 1810); Thomas Prosize (m. 1810); Tilghmon A. Pullin (m. 1830); Noton Ramsey (m. 1808); Jabez Smith (m. 1827); Baggle Stimson (m. 1810); Bezaleel Wier Sr. (m. 1816); Stithe Wynne (m. 1786).

Women's Names:

Eady Adkins (m. 1846); Mourning Bobbett Bennett (m. 1803); Hesterann Berger (m. 1833); Glasey Cooley (m. 1779); Asenna Dalton (m. 1795); Aincy Dear (m. 1796) Priscilla Dews (1817); Sarah Dove (m. 1826); Stony Ferguson (m. 1792); Susanna Flippin (m. 1817); Tina Groff (m. 1806); Luzina C. Hankins (m. 1837); Tallithicum Hoskins (m. 1823 -- perhaps from Mark 5:41 quoting Jesus in Aramic, "Talitha cumi" -- "Damsel, I say unto thee arise"); Fanny Lamb (m. 1799); Lithe Lester (m. 1789); Zilla McDaniel (m. 1859); Wealthy Prewet (m. 1777); Paisey Pullen (m. 1799); Yulcanna Rider (m. 1803); Va. A. E. Sidebottom (m. 1858); Virilinda Simpson (m. 1782); Beheathaland Smith (m. 1788); Sarah Swepston (m. 1832); Dionisha Walden (m. 1800); Nancy Waddill (m. 1805); Wilmoth Walrond (m. 1824); Christian Wynne (m. 1785); Ardinna Young (m. 1847); Celah Young (m. 1814).

Two women with names that were especially amusing were Axeeye Jesse (m. 1809) and Polley Pistole (m. 1809; she became Polley Pistole Slaydon). They sound like they are out of a western movie.

One of my favorite marriages name-wise is True Love Sparks to Jane Sparks, whose surely was put up by Peter Pigg.

Some of the ministers had unusual names also. Ebin (or Eben) Angel; Joseph Hatchett; Crispin Dickenson Sr.; Crispin Dickenson Jr.; Edwin G. Cabaniss; Wm. H. Kinkle; W.M. Nesbitt; W. S. Penick; Wm. H. Plunkett; and Samuel I. Spotts all married many couples in the 1800s.

SCRAPS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The mail bag produced a pre-publication announcement of a book titled: Atkinson Ancestors and Allied Families by R.W. Atkinson. Price prior to August 20, 1995 is \$39.50 delivered. If interested write him at 185 Canyon Road, Chagrin Falls, OH 44022. The book contains research on other families familiar to Pittsylvanians such as Bryan, Fuquy, Gregory, Jones, Morgan and Powell.

The valuable Booker Stone coverlets, donated to the Society by Jane McClelland of Alexandria, are in safe storage in nearby Martinsville. It occurs to the Editor that many Society members have never had an opportunity to view these beautiful creations by the talented plantation slave, Booker, at Shady Grove near Sheva. Is a viewing possible? Can it be done at the November meeting? The Editor suggests that those of us who are receptive to the idea make our wishes known to Program Chairperson, Frances Hurt.

COMING PACKET ATTRACTIONS

THE FRANKLIN TURNPIKE: Pittsylvania's First Toll Road.

A brief history of this famous pike will appear. A major portion of its route from Danville to Rocky Mount is still traversed today.

THE WILLOW DEL COMMISSARY

The existence of a secret Confederate supply base, founded in 1862, in Pittsylvania County has recently come to light. Its location was on the waters of Harpen Creek near present day Pullens, and a search for its precise site is already underway amid considerable excitement.

THE CCC IN PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY

This New Deal program made a significant contribution to conservation in Pittsylvania County during the Great Depression. One local well known authority on the subject served in a local CCC camp. His identity as the writer of the article will be revealed in a future issue.

August 1995 Queries

(Free to members to aid others with similar interests.)

EDITORS NOTE:

I look forward to assisting members in their search for family history. We are pleased that this is perhaps the fastest growing section of The Packet. Space problems have developed as a consequence, and we are forced to adopt a policy of publishing only one query per family per quarter. In fairness to others, members are urged to submit queries in as brief a form as possible.

Wish to correspond with descendents of Jos. AUSTIN, b. 1730-VA d. 1810- Pitts. Co. VA. Inherited land from his father was who a large landowner in Lunenburg Co., VA M. 1st ?? Terry ??? ca. 1750 (?) - VA M. 2nd - Wealthy PRUIT/PRUITT/PREWITT of Halifax Co. VA dau. of Daniel PRUIT/PREWITT. Am desc. of Stephen AUSTIN, b. ca. 1769-VA who mar. Rebecca HANKINS, dau. of Captain Daniel HANKINS of Pitts. Co. If you connect this line, please write Mrs. Les SHROYER, 6119 So. Blue Ct. Crystal Lake, Ill 60014-4766.

Am searching for Frederick RIVES and wife, Mary Magdelene STEGALL (or STEGOLL) RIVES. Also Burwell RIVES and wife, Amy STEGALL (or STEGOLL) RIVES who came to Pittsylvania Co. from Brunswick Co., VA ca. 1769 or later.

P.S. I have a Robert MITCHELL from VA m. Jane HARMON b. VA. This MITCHELL went into Indiana ca. 1816. Donna HOLLAND, 7520 S. 60th Ave. W. Colfax IA 50054.

Seeking correspondence with descendents of CHEEK, CHICK surname of late 1700s and early 1800s in Pitts., Bedford, Charlotte Cos., VA. Please write to Gail RANDLE, 2001 6th Ave. S.W., Largo, FL 34640.

Seek any info on Woodson WALLACE who may be brother of Jesse WALLACE. Woodson b. ca. 1825-26 in Pitts. Co. VA d. 4 Jan. Ottumwa, IA. Served in Civil War - age 40. Taken prisoner at Mark's Mills, ARK. Sent to Camp Ford prison, Tyler, TX, exchanged in 1865 m. 1st Elizabeth SHEPARD 23 April 1841 in Gallia Co, OH 2nd Ailey C. Patterson FISHER on 17 Feb. 1860 in Ottumwa, Wapello CO., IA. There are 13 children: Sarah m. ZEPHENEAL m. Bones; Nancy Ann m. John RUPE, Alfred N. wounded in Civil War, disch. for disability; Thomas was wounded in Civil War, dying at home in Wapello, IA; Louella L. m. ?; Edward m. ?; Mary Frances m. ? Eoline m. Thomas W. HOLCOMB; Jesse m. ?; Melvina m. Thomas C. GIBBONS; Woodson m. Lillie B. SIMONS, Clara A. m. ?; Emma m. Ira S. SAYLOR.

Kathleen KOEP, 2368 Magda Circle, Thousand Oaks, CA 92360.

William GOOD (GOAD or GOODE) b. 1754 Bedford Co., VA. Lived in Pitts. Co. VA until 1779; d. 1850 Washington or Sullivan Co. TN Revolutionary War Battles;

Stone So. Car.; Kings Mountain and Cherokee Indians; d. Washington or Sullivan Co. TN. m. (2) Mary HALL 1820; Known child Christopher Anderson GOOD 1823-1912. Civil War Private Co. D 8th Reg. TN Cav.; Father, Richard GOODE, Will probated Jan 31, 1819 Wilkes Co., NC. Heirs listed were children: William, Thomas, John, Elvira, Spencer, Suscy, Francis.

Kay M. CRUM, NSDAR No. 0762281, 247 Jenifer St., Greenville, TN 37745 615-638-7816

(QUERIES -- CONTINUED)

Need information on the parents and siblings of Menan LANGFORD b. 1782 in Virginia. Is possible that the LANGFORD family migrated to Rutherford Co., NC area before moving into Anderson and Roane Counties, TN. Several LANGFORDS married into the DALTON line in NC. Menan married about 1809, Mourning DALTON probably in Anderson or Roane Co. Menan, and several other LANGFORDS, relationships unknown, appear in Roane County records from about 1802 to 1817-1818. In ca. 1818, Menan migrated to Orange Co. IN with the DALTON families. Will share few known Menan descendants.

Margaret BAKER, 151 E. Harrison St., #7 Orleans, IN 47452-2103

Need background of Thos. MOORE and wife Nancy FLETCHER. Daughter Penelope m. Willis MARSHALL in Pitts. Co. 7 July 1800. Am eager to obtain Pitts. Co. information on MAYS and DORTON family. Rev. Willis HOPWOOD's dau. Sally (widow of Ebenezer BECK) m. Alexander E. MAYS in 1811. Research leads me to believe that HOPWOOD, MAYS and DORTON families traveled together one county to another. Alex. MAYS m. Elanor DORTON 16 April in Marshall Co. TN. Could DORTON be an error for DALTON? Pedigree Chart included. Nancy Margaret Mays COOPER, 3175 Sugar Ridge Road, Meadow Vista, CA 95722.

Who knows the father and mother of William F. RANDOLPH, who was the father of CSA Major Beverly RANDOLPH and the grandfather of Eston RANDOLPH of Pittsylvania Co? William F. RANDOLPH was the grandson of Va. Gov. Thomas Marm RANDOLPH. William F. RANDOLPH'S wife? Eston's wife? (If you are blood kin to the RANDOLPHS of Virginia, you're kin to almost all the Virginians).

Robert HUNT 105 Coral Reef Dr. Goose Creek, SC 29445 (803) 572-1982

Thank you so much for the past issues of The Pittsylvania Packet. I'm looking forward to receiving them on a regular basis in the future. In this regard, please find a \$10 check for my 1994-95 PHS membership.

I'm a direct descendant of Stephen COLEMAN from Pittsylvania Co. who served in the VA. Militia during the Revolutionary War. I would like very much to find his grave. I know he was buried somewhere near Java and Riceville, VA. If anyone can help me locate this grave, please get in touch with me. I will share information on this family. I know exactly where his son Col. Stephen COLEMAN is buried. Please use this as a query in The Packet. Thanks for your help in this matter.

T. Richard FERRELL Jr. 2138 Seven Lakes S. West End, NC 27376 (910)-673-1289

Seek information on wives, parents, siblings of Thomas SCOTT (b. ca. 1730) d. ca. 1770, Pittsylvania Co.) Known children: Nimrod Sr., (m. Wilmoth WALTZERS) John (m. Sophie MURRY), Jacob, Isaac, Anne, (m. Jesse ASHLOCK), Barksdale, James, Robert, Simon, William and possibly Basil. Also, seek information on WALTERS and MURRY family lines.

Ty ASHLOCK, 3135 Comanche NE #254 Albuquerque, NM 87107-4651.

I am enclosing a check for \$10 for a single membership in the Pittsylvania County Historical Society. I would like to correspond with anyone having knowledge of the PARSONS. I believe they were in Pittsylvania County from the middle 1700s to the late 1820s.

Donna L. PRICE 7771 S. Foresthill Court, Littleton, COLO 80120

(QUERIES -- CONTINUED)

In his will in Louisa County, VA, William ROBINSON (ROBISON-ROBESON-ROBERTSON) named Adm. James ROBERTSON (son?) and legatees: John, Joseph, and Thomas ROBERSON and David DALTON (spouse of his daughter, Sarah) and Bradley DALTON (spouse of his daughter Dolly, (Polly?)) each to receive 1/9th interest in his estate. (Names of other three not in will) I believe that the ROBINSONS may have migrated to Rutherford Co., NC then onto Anderson and Roane Co, TN with the DALTON family. Am interested in locating this William ROBINSON family and descendants and the DALTON boys who married William's daughters.

Margaret BAKER, 151 E. Harrison St. #7, Orleans, In. 47452-2103

I would appreciate having the following query in the next issue of your periodical.

CROTTY/DOSS: Elizabeth DOSS was born 1850, Rocky Mount, Franklin County, VA to James Andrew DOSS and Ann WEST. She married Robert S. CROTTY 1974 in Greenbrier Co., West Virginia. His parents were Michael CROTTY and Mary Ann DOWDY. When did Elizabeth Doss CROTTY die, and where is she buried? Mrs. Barbara Doss MCKINLAY, 2740 La Cuesta Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90046.

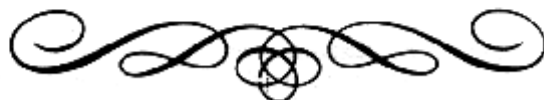
DAVIS, KNIGHT

Seek any information and the parents of Curtice KNIGHT and his wife Hannah DAVIS. Curtice was b. about Oct. 1780 in MD and d. 27 April 1861 in Wapello Co. IA. His wife was b. in 1789 in VA and d. in IA 10/16 Mar. 1875. They are both buried in the McIntire Cemetery in Wapello Co. IA. They were married 12 April 1809 in Grandview twp Washington Co, OH. They lived in Tyler Co., VA between 1815 and 1820, in Monroe Co, OH Ohio twp 1830 to 1833 and Gallia Co. Clay twp until about 1844 when they went to IA. They had 9 children: William, David, Curtis W., Sarah, Nancy Jane, Susan, Fanny, Friend A and Isaac. Kathleen KOEPP, 2368 Magda Circle, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360.



GIVE OUR MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY A BREAK

If you have not paid your annual Society membership dues, they are due and payable as of May 17. Please pay before or at the August meeting. This will ensure the presence of the PITTSYLVANIA PACKET in your parlor each quarter. Jeanette Brown will appreciate your prompt response.



GLEANINGS FROM OUR READERS

"We love reading *The Packet*. Makes us feel at home."

Polly Light
Virginia Beach

"Mrs. Brown,

The info in "The Pittsylvania Packet" is invaluable. I just learned the marriage date of a pair of my great-great-grandparents which was listed in "Marriage Records of Pittsylvania County, VA in the Spring 1995 issue.

I hope Mr. Moses' wish for a county museum will someday be realized."

Lillian Mahan Habermann
Woodbridge, NJ

"To The Packet Editor:

It helps to be helpful! In the Fall 1994 Packet was a query by Ralph Caldwell of Monroe, GA. He was looking for information about Seth Caldwell who resided in Pittsylvania County in the early 1700s thru 1788. Having gleaned some information about Seth, who might have been the father of my earliest known Caldwell ancestor, I sent it to Ralph. Two days after sending it along with some information about my ancestor, William Caldwell of Knox and Harlan Co., KY, Ralph phoned me with a great deal of excitement. His early ancestor, William Caldwell of Montgomery and Giles Cos. VA and mine were one and the same. William had seven children in VA between 1799 and 1810, then ten more in Kentucky after 1812. Except for some land transactions by mail between 1819 and 1828, the two branches had no known contact-----. After our excitement abated, we swapped more information. Then Ralph's father, Dr. Alton Brown Caldwell contacted me with subdued excitement. --- Later, Dr. Brown picked up on it, and he and his son, Ralph added more and prepared a genealogical chart with about 350 descendents of one of William's sons.

An aunt by marriage, Leola Caldwell of Texas began gathering family history. --- Leola gave me copies of her information. ----. We published a small (52 pages) booklet in 1984 with very limited family info ----. Jo Ed Caldwell and other cousins began an extended Caldwell family reunion in 1985 and asked me to print more booklets. Family research by various cousins really took off then. This July will be our eleventh reunion, and we expect to have a large (250 pages) hardcover Book of Caldwells by then.

Dr. Brown and son prepared 60 pages of the Virginia branch for inclusion with what we discovered. ----.

Kinfolk that Greg and I have been looking for for 21 years are about to be united with us. They have been looking for us for about the same period. ---. Need I say "We are excited." A reunion of a family after 183 years apart. Thanks to *The Packet*, it helps to be helpful."

Archie Caldwell
1547 Stewart Creek Rd.
Murfreesboro, Tenn. 37129

Editor's Note: Due to space limitations, it was necessary to print only excerpts of Mr. Caldwell's letter. However, we should add that he mentioned a reunion with the Virginia branch on July 29 at Grace Christian Church at Princeton, W. VA. He and other Virginia cousins are planning to attend the Kentucky reunion at Corbin on July 1 also. Thanks for your exciting letter, Archie. HEM

Once again I have to write to extend a big thanks to **The Packet** and the Society. After receiving **The Packet** and publishing the request for information on the Oakes family, I have been in correspondence with several families, all of which have provided information about the Oakes family. --- Enclosed is a descendent chart for John Oakes. Thank you. James N. McGhee, 6076 N. Shallowhill Dr. Bartlett, TN 38135.

Dear Mr. Moses,

Last year my cousin, Alice Overbey, sent me a gift membership in your society. I am honored to be a member and have thoroughly enjoyed reading **The Packet** from cover to cover. Your publication is most interesting and informative. I am enclosing a check to renew my membership for another year. Congratulations on the fine work you are doing.

Mrs. B.C. Jordan 217 Linton Avenue Natchez, Mississippi 39120

Note: Society Members:

The ever faithful Betty Bruno of 16934 Mooncrest Dr. Encino, CA 91436-3511, writes that there is a good book for French Huguenot descendants - especially the Pittsylvania County families of Glenn, Irby and LeGrand. Book is: Le Grand, Louis E.: *Pierre Le Grand in Virginia* (Baltimore, Gateway Press, \$38.00) Make check payable to Louis E. Le Grand, 8100 Colebrook Road, Richmond, VA 23227-1613.

Dear members,

I enjoy reading **The Pittsylvania Packet** so very much and read every word. I only wish my health was so I could be an active member of the society. You are all doing a wonderful work.

Mary White
Chatham, VA

My check is enclosed for membership in the Pittsylvania Historical Society. My husband and I enjoyed doing research on vacation in April of 1995 in Chatham.

My ancestral names are: LYON, AUSTIN, EASLEY, COLEMAN, THOMPSON. I saw a copy of the Winter 1995 Packet and was impressed with the publication. Margaret Stafford, 3411 Martha Court, Arcate, Calif. 95521-4884. (707)822-3255.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

As a Society Member, you can serve the organization by :

1. Attending every quarterly meeting possible.
2. Talking up its activities to friends and neighbors.
3. Giving a membership to a relative as a gift.
4. Serving on committees when asked.

YOU WILL BE GLAD YOU DID

Union Prisoner's Memoir Recalls Rail Ride To Danville



By Henry H. Mitchell

In the last issue of *The Packet*, Confederate Captain John Dooley was quoted as commenting on his April 1865 approach to Pannill's Bridge into northern Pittsylvania that he was crossing "a portion of the State that has never felt the scorching breath of war or drunk the warm life blood of the South's bravest men. Here rise tall fences enclosing rich pastures, fields of waving wheat and sprouting corn. But the plenty scattered here appears in strange contrast with the desolation and exhaustion of the rest of the State."

A starkly different impression of parts of south central Virginia was recorded by A.O. Abbott, 1st Lt., New York Dragoons, who traveled from Richmond to Danville by rail on May 31, 1864, as a prisoner. The following account by Abbott is found in *Prison Life in the South: at Richmond, Macon, Savannah, Charleston, Columbia, Charlotte, Raleigh, Goldsborough, and Andersonville, During the Years of 1864 and 1865* by A.O. Abbott, Harper & Brothers, New York, 1865.

LEAVING RICHMOND

"On the morning of the 31st of May we were aroused at 5 o'clock by the sergeant (at Libby Prison in Richmond), and ordered to get ready to go South at once... They marched us over the James River to Manchester and halted us alongside of the Danville Railroad, made up a train of box-cars and loaded us in...

"We left Manchester at 7:30 a.m.... just as the battle of Cold Harbor was opening. We soon found that traveling on a Rebel railroad was very different from what it would be on one in our Northern States. Their rolling stock was nearly worn out, the rails broken, splintered, and battered, the ties rotten, and altogether, it was a dangerous matter to ride at all upon them, to say nothing of speed. For greater safety, their fastest trains were limited to twelve miles an hour by Act of Congress. Their stops are frequent for their wheezy old engines use double the fuel they would if they were in good repair; and their wood and water stations are separate thus making a stop every four or five miles.

STATIONS DILAPIDATED, COUNTRYSIDE POOR

"During this ride we suffered for water, for the day was intensely hot, and we had nothing to get it in, but had to drink it from our hands or from the holes by the side of the track. The stations along this route are not villages such as you find on our Northern roads but consist of five or six houses dignified with a name high sounding enough for a corporation. The depots are small unpainted buildings with but a few conveniences and much dilapidation. (The train would have passed stations at "Coal Fields" (Midlothian Coal Pits), Amelia Courthouse, Jetersville, Jennings Ordinary, Burkeville, Meherrin, Keysville, Mossingford, Clover, South Boston, New's Ferry, Barksdale; and late in the evening in Pittsylvania County, Ringgold and Dan River. The Richmond & Danville line's construction had begun in Richmond in 1850 and ended in Danville in 1856, a testimony to the determination of Pittsylvania visionary Whitmell P. Tunstall. But by 1864, the stresses of wartime had apparently almost put the Richmond & Danville out of operation.)

"The country through which we passed was very poor, the cultivated portions of it being planted to corn by the negroes...Very few white men to be seen...

ABBOTT DESCRIBES DANVILLE

"We arrived at Danville about one o'clock the next (Wednesday) morning...Here our old guard was relieved by some Virginia militia under command of Lieutenant Gray, 3rd Virginia Infantry (Hampton's Legion).

"Danville is situated on the south side of the Dan River, one hundred and forty-eight miles from Richmond, and had at this time a population of about five thousand. It had increased in numbers since the war, many of the refugees from Northern Virginia coming here with their families to escape from the immediate horrors of the battle-field. It had several government hospitals, and at times Federal prisoners have been confined here, but at this time nearly all had been sent farther South. It was also a depot for supplies in transit from Georgia and North Carolina."

"The railroad connecting Danville with Greensboro is a new one, built in 1863, '4, by the Rebel government, and we were among the first that went over it. The train did not make over eight miles per hour." (Lt. Abbott and his fellow prisoners continued under conditions of great difficulty to Greensboro, Salisbury, Charlotte, Columbia, Augusta and Macon.)

S. P. Wilson
To Danville & New Haven Railroad.
 1882

DATE	To Freight on	CLASS	WEIGHT	RATE	CHARGES	FERRY	TOTAL
Nov 7	1 Bag oatmeal		5	10	14		1.26

Recd Payment
L. A. Longway

Samuel Pannill Wilson of Windsor Farms near Cascade incurred this freight bill for shipment of 18 pounds of oatmeal in 1882.

Mr. Samuel P Wilson
 1860

To balance of your account	Ferryage,	\$ 5.00
By cash in full		\$ 5.00

L. M. Shumaker

The above is evidence that Wilson used the services of a ferry belonging to his relatives on the eve of the Civil War.

The above are
 courtesy of Elizabeth
 Wilson Whitehead

To the Honible the Speaker and House of Delegates of Virginia

The Petition of John Dix humbly sheweth,

That a public Ferry hath been established from the Lands of your Petitioner in the County of Pittsylvania across Dan River to the Land of Robert Payne

That your Petitioner hath lately purchased ^{or some} land on the South side of the said River opposite to the Ferry, which would be a more convenient landing than the present one: Your Petitioner therefore prays this Honible House to discontinue the ferry to the Land of Robert Payne and establish it to the Land of your Petitioner on the opposite Shore And he will pray

THIS SPECIMEN OF JOHN DIX'S PETITION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR PERMISSION TO CHANGE THE LOCATION OF HIS FERRY LANDING ON THE DAN RIVER IN 1770 WAS INDICATIVE OF THE COMMONWEALTH'S STRICT CONTROL OF FERRY OPERATIONS

Editor's Note:

The site of the above mentioned ferry landing was located in 1994 by county historian, Danny Ricketts. He also found the ruins of Dix's ordinary on the old pioneer road nearby as well as his grist mill. The ferry played a significant role in the Revolution.

**THE PACKET" -- Published by the
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Herman Melton, President & Editor of "The Packet"**

Frances Hurt, Vice President Susan Worley, Corresponding Secty.

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Directors: Norman Amos, Virginia Chaplin, James "Mack" Doss, Alice Overbey

Catherine Overbey and Preston B. Moses

Membership Dues: \$10 single, \$15 couple. Please mail to Mrs. Jeannette A. Brown, Membership Secretary, Route 1, Box 8K6, Chatham, VA 24531, Phone: (804)-432-2607. Member gets membership card and "The Packet."

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THE PACKET is the quarterly publication of the Pittsylvania Historical Society for members and those who are interested in the history of their families and the area in which they lived.

PITTSYLVANIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

To order, write SUSAN WORLEY, Rt. 2, Box 223, Chatham, VA 24531

History of Pittsylvania County, Virginia by Maud Carter Clement. The history of the county, reprinted in hard cover. \$24 postpaid.

Eighteenth Century Landmarks of Pittsylvania County, Virginia by Madeline Fitzgerald and Frances Hurt. Revised, completely indexed. Soft cover. \$12 postpaid.

An Intimate History of the American Revolution in Pittsylvania County by Frances Hurt. Many little-known family stories, scores of surnames, roster of Pittsylvania soldiers. Illustrated and fully indexed. reprinted in hard cover. \$17 postpaid.

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